Medford's Messenger





Fall 2009

Dear Public Land User:

The primary purpose of Medford's *Messenger* is to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Medford District. It contains listings of projects, by resource area, that have been completed recently and identifies newly proposed projects. It is our desire to keep you informed about issues, activities, and opportunities we think are important to our publics. More importantly, we are seeking ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our multiple-use management programs.

This planning update has been organized to give you a brief description of activities occurring in several programs, as well as descriptions of new projects being considered by the district. Additional information can be obtained from the people listed in the descriptions. These contact people are familiar with their projects and are able to answer questions and provide more details on the projects. They are interested in receiving information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas.

A copy of the Medford *Messenger* is available for viewing on the Medford District's web page, at: http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php

Special Notice: To better conserve resources and begin transitioning to a new national BLM planning process, we have changed to electronic availability of the Medford Messenger. It will be available on a quarterly basis throughout the year. A paper copy will be available at libraries in Medford and Grants Pass, and at the Medford District BLM Offices in Medford and Grants Pass.

If you wish to receive a paper update, please confirm your address in written correspondence to our office (address below).

Our practice is to make comments on projects available for public review, including names and home addresses of respondents. Unless you specifically request us to withhold your name and address, it will be made available to the public on request.

We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have regarding this Planning Update including how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

Thank you for your continued interest in BLM's management of your Public Lands. If you have any questions on information in this Planning Update, stop by the office or call us at 541-618-2200.

Sincerely,

Timothy B. Reuwsaat Medford District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management

Medford District Office 3040 Biddle Road

Medford, Oregon 97504

National Environmental Policy Act Analysis and Documentation

The review of the environmental effects of a proposed management action can occur in any of four ways: categorical exclusions, administrative determinations, environmental assessments, or environmental impact statements.

1. A *categorical exclusion* is used when it has been determined that some types of proposed activities do not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and may be exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. Departmental policy and the Council of Environmental Quality regulations require that categorical actions be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether any of the extraordinary circumstances apply. In addition, no public notice of a federal agency's use of a categorical exclusion is required.

Certain activities within the BLM's forestry program have been categorically excluded from preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of a categorical exclusion is to eliminate the need for unnecessary paperwork under NEPA. Specifically, Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR 1508.4 state that:

"Categorical exclusion' means a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations (Sec.1507.3) and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.... Any procedures under this section shall provide for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect."

In implementation of the NEPA regulations, the BLM has developed categorical exclusions for certain silvicultural activities, such as reforestation, pre-commercial treatments, brush control, sample tree falling, salvage, commercial thinning, and hazardous fuels reduction of limited acres. In developing categorical exclusions, the BLM demonstrated through rulemaking procedures how these actions do not typically result in significant environmental effects and set forth the methodology and criteria used to define the categories of actions. These rulemaking procedures included extensive public involvement and input, and CEQ review, regarding appropriate limits on the use of the categorical exclusion to assure that any categorically excluded action would remain within the effects of actions covered in the analysis for the rulemaking.

As such, in deciding whether to proceed with such actions, the BLM will review their particular conditions to ensure that no extraordinary circumstances exist, as listed in the Department of the Interior's NEPA Manual at 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, that would preclude the use of a categorical exclusion. The Medford District/Resource areas maintain on site NEPA registers that list on going actions, and seek information from the

public as to whether extraordinary circumstances exist for any of these ongoing actions that are categorically excluded. An "extraordinary" circumstance is one that could have significant environmental effects beyond the "ordinary" circumstances already described and considered as applicable to the excluded actions in the rulemaking procedure. These categorically excluded actions, by regulation, do not require the documentation necessary for an EA or EIS. The public was also provided a formal opportunity to participate in the agency's review and approval of these categorically excluded activities. Given this context, the BLM may choose to proceed with these actions as part of the ordinary course of business in managing forest land with the posting of a notice of decision on the District internet site. This notice would advise the public of the formal administrative review process for these individual actions available under 43 CFR 4.450. Depending on circumstances, however, the BLM may invoke, by publishing a notice in a local newspaper of record, the administrative review process under 43 CFR 5003 for certain individual forest management actions. Categorical exclusions posted on the website will have their individual administrative remedy process contained in the document.

If you are interested in any of these types of actions, more information can be obtained from our website (www.blm.gov/or) or by contacting the Medford District office. We can give you information on current projects.

- 2. An *administrative determination* is a determination by BLM that NEPA documentation previously prepared by the BLM fully covers a proposed action and no additional analysis is need. This procedure is often used in conjunction with a plan conformance determination. If an action is fully in conformance with actions specifically described in the RMP and analyzed in the RMP/FEIS, a plan conformance determination many be made and no additional analysis would be needed. A recent procedure now being implemented by the BLM is called a determination of NEPA adequacy (DNA) in which an action is examined in the light of existing NEPA documents to determine if NEPA requirements have been met.
- 3. An *environmental assessment* (EA) is prepared to assess the effects of actions that are not exempt from NEPA, are not categorically excluded, and are not covered by an existing environmental document. An EA is prepared to determine if a proposed action or alternative will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In an effort to save paper and printing costs environmental assessments will be available on our website for your review and comment. If you desire a paper copy please contact us and we will send you a copy by mail.
- 4. Major proposals the will significantly affect the environment and that have not been previously analyzed through and *environmental impact statement* (EIS) require that an EIS be prepared.

Abbreviations and Definitions

ACEC/RNA—Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area

BO—Biological Opinion

CE—Categorical Exclusion—Actions which do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

EA – Environmental Assessment – A concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be done for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

GFMA—General Forest Management Area

IDT—Interdisciplinary Team—A group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, and who conduct environmental analysis.

LSR—Late-Successional Reserves—One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the *Northwest Forest Plan*. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.

Matrix Lands—One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the *Northwest Forest Plan*. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area.

MBF—thousand board feet.

MMBF—million board feet

NEPA—National Environmental Policy Act—A federal law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review, and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

RMP—Resource Management Plan—A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Scoping—An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for Environmental Impact Statements.

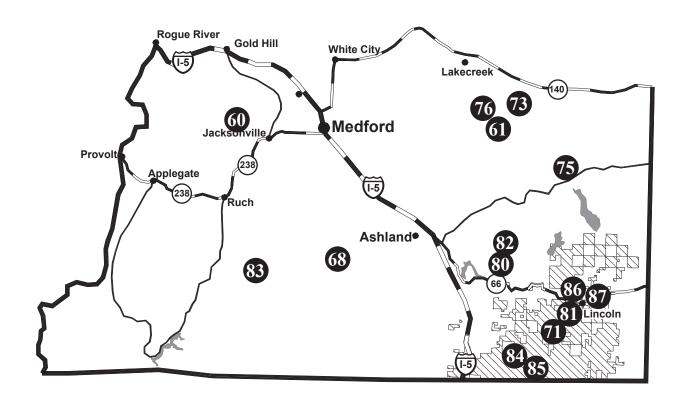
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

MEDFORD DISTRICT • 3040 BIDDLE ROAD • MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

	I O CATIVON		PROPOSED			GONTH GT
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
60. TIMBER MTN RECREATION PLAN/ EIS (Draft). An activity level recreation plan managing OHV use.	West of Jacksonville	Complete	Complete	Completed May 13, 2009	Winter 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
61. SOUTH FORK LITTLE BUTTE EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production. Involves multiple contracts.	Little Butte Ck. Watershed	On-going	On-going	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
68. WAGNER ANDERSON PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Wagner Creek Watershed	Fall 2009	Fall 2009	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
71. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate a grazing lease for the Deadwood and Howard Prairie allotments.	East and South of Howard Prairie Reservoir	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Steve Slavik
73. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate Heppsie Mountain allotment grazing lease.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Winter 2007	Spring 2009	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Steve Slavik
75. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate Conde Creek allotment grazing lease.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Fall 2009	Fall 2009	Winter 2009/10	Winter 2010	Steve Slavik
76. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate grazing leases in the Lake Creek Spring, Lake Creek Summer, Deer Creek- Reno allotments.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Steve Slavik
80. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate Cove Creek allotment grazing lease.	Sampson Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2009	Steve Slavik

			PRO	POSED		
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
81. CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE EA: Proposal to treat six areas for fuels reduction in the Greensprings community.	Greensprings community east of Ashland off Highway 66.	Fall 2008	Winter 2009	Spring 2009	Fall 2009	Kevin Kocarek
82. SAMPSON COVE PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Upper Bear Creek Watershed	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
83. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate the Lower Big Applegate allotment.	Applegate Watershed	Fall 2009	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Steve Slavik
84. SODA MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATION SITE PLAN EA. A comprehensive communication site management plan for the Soda Mountain Communication Site.	Soda Mountain	Winter 2010	Summer 2010	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Kathy Minor/Joe Hoppe
85. SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN. A plan for managing the Soda Mountain Wilderness.	Southeast of Ashland	Winter 2010	Fall 2010	Winter 2011	Summer 2011	Kathy Minor
86. CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN EA. A comprehensive transportation management plan to evaluate the road network within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and determine transportation, restoration, and protection needs.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland to the California border	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Kathy Minor
87. CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT LAND EXCHANGE EA. Two land exchanges identified in P.L. 111-011-Land Tenure Actions.	East of Ashland, near Lincoln	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Kathy Minor/ Mary Johnson



Ashland Resource Area Projects

Timber Mtn Recreation Plan/EIS

South Fork Little Butte EA

Wagner Anderson Project EA

Grazing Lease Renewal--Deadwood Grazing Lease Renewal--Heppsie Mt.

Grazing Lease Renewal--Conde Creek

Grazing Lease Renewal--Lake Creek, Spring and Summer, and Deer Creek Reno

Grazing Lease Renewal--Cove Creek

CSNM Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Sampson Cove EA

Grazing Lease Renewal--Lower Big Applegate

Soda Mtn Communication Site Plan EA

Soda Mtn Wilderness Plan EA

CSNM Transportation Management Plan EA

CSNM Land Exchaange Ea (Deerfield/ Rowlett)

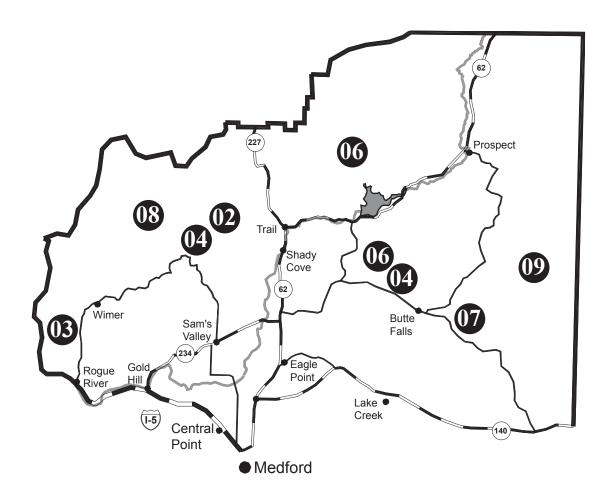
BUTTE FALLS RESOURCE AREA SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS MEDFORD DISTRICT • 3040 BIDDLE ROAD • MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

RECENT DECISIONS SIGNED OR PROJECTS DROPPED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
3. FOREST CAPITAL RIGHT-OF-WAY EA	T35S, R4W, Sec. 31					Jean Williams
4. BUTTE FALLS HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION EA (west and east half of the Resource Area combined)	Resource Area Wide					Al Mason

NEW PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

			PROP	OSED		
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
2. CABLE RIGHT-OFWAY EA	T34S, R2W, Sec. 5	Spring 2009	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Jean Williams
6. FLAT CREEK & SUMMIT PRAIRIE ALLOTMEMNTS 10 YEAR GRAZING AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL EA	T32S, R1E; T33S, R1E; T32S, R1W; T33S, R1W; T33S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T34S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T35S, R2E, R3E	Spring 2004	Spring 2009	Summer 2009	Summer 2009	Kimberly Hackett
7. TWIN RANCH FOREST MANAGEMENT EA	T34S, R3E, Sec. 35; T35S, R3E, Sec. 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 17, 19	Completed	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Jean Williams
8. EVANS CREEK FOREST MANAGEMENT EA	T32S, R2W; T32S, R3W; T33S, R2W; T33S, R3W; TT33S, R4W; T34S, R2W; T34S, R3W; T34S, R4W; T35S, R4W; T36S, R4W	Completed	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Spring 2011	Jean Williams
9. RANCH STEW II EA (young stand and plantation thinning)	T33S, R2E, R3E; T34S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T35S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T36S, R2E, R3E	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Bill Ripley





Forest Capital Right-of-Way EA

Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels
Reduction EA (west and east half
or the Resource Area combined)

гіат Стеек ∝ Summit Prairie Allotments 10-year Grazing Authorization Renewal EA

77 Twin Ranch Forest Management EA

08 Evans Creek Forest Management EA

09 Ranch Stew II EA

GLENDALE RESOURCE AREA SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS MEDFORD DISTRICT • 2164 NE SPALDING AVENUE • GRANTS PASS • OREGON 97526

ACTIVE PROJECTS WITH DECISIONS, OR PROPOSED PROJECTS AND ANTICIPATED DECISION DATES

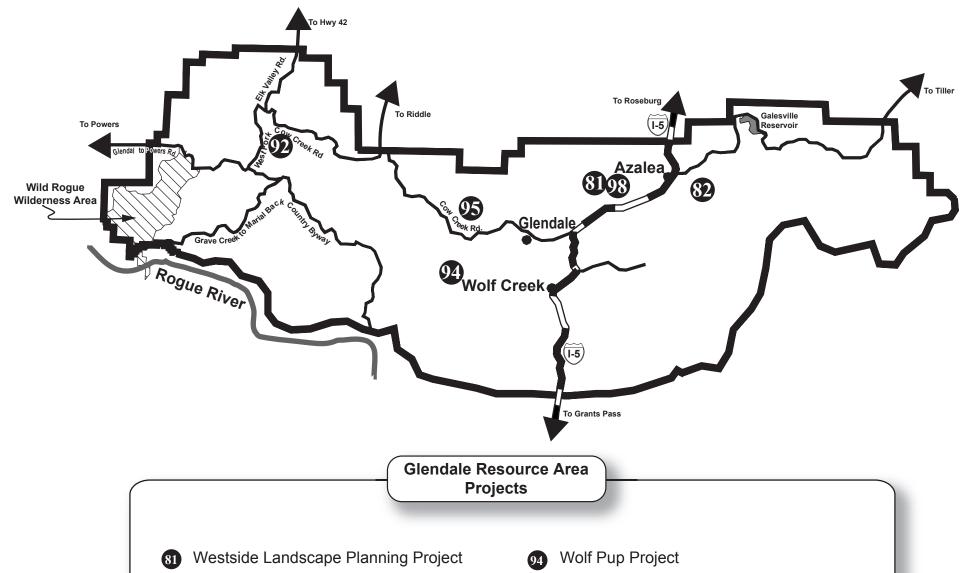
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
98. WEST THIN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. This EA is a revision of the Revised Westside Project EA. However, these changes do not include those portions of the Westside EA used to support the decisions for implementing the Chew Choo Timber Sale and the Westside Fuels Reduction Treatments. The scope of the West Thin EA includes 347 acres of commercial thinning from the 3,374 acres of harvest proposed under the Westside EA.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fortune Stew (Stewardship)- Fiscal Year 2010; Small Fortune Timber Sale Sept- 2009; Swampwood Timber Sale – Sept 2009;	Martin Lew
81. WESTSIDE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. Proposed activities include timber harvesting, pre-commercial thinning, fuels reduction, road work, and riparian restoration.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Chew Choo Timber Sale - Sept 2006 (sold unawarded sale);	Martin Lew
82. MIDDLE COW LSR PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. Proposed activities include timber harvest, thinning treatments, fuels reduction, wildlife enhancement, riparian restoration, and recreation development opportunities.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed. South Umpqua/Galesville Late Successional Reserve.	Completed	Completed	Completed	Timber Sales: Healthy Murph - Aug 2006; Snag Creation and Stream Habitat Improvement - June 2007; Starving Cow - Sept 2007; Fuel Treatments - Jan 2007; Fizzy Stew (Stewardship)- April 2009	Michelle Calvert

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
92. ANAKTUVUK THIN. Proposed activities include commercial thinning approximately 145 acres of Douglas-fir plantations 39 to 48 years of age. Created slash from harvesting would be removed for biomass utilization.	T.32S., R.9W., Sections 8, 9, 16-18, 21	Completed	Completed	Completed	Decision Record Fuels - June 2009; Timber Sale Sept 2009	Martin Lew

Fall 2009

NEW PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

			PRO	POSED		
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
68. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENTS AND HAULING PERMITS. Processing of individual requests from other public agencies and private parties for access through BLM managed lands.	Glendale Resource Area					Martin Lew
94. WOLF PUP PROJECT. Proposed activities include timber harvesting and roadwork.	T.33S., R.7W., Sections 10, 11, 13, 15, 25, 26, 35; T.33S., R.62., Section 31; T.34S., R.7W., Section 1	Winter- Spring 2009	Summer 2009	October 2009	November 2009	Michelle Calvert
95. REUBEN HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT	T.32S., R.7W., Section 25 and T.33S., R.7W., Sections 1, 3, 9, & 11	Winter 2009	Summer 2009	October 2009	November 2009	Michelle Calvert



- Middle Cow LSR Landscape Planning Project
- 92 Anaktuvuk Thin

- Reuben Hazardous Fuel Reductions Project
- 98 West Thin EA

GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS GRANTS PASS INTERAGENCY OFFICE—2164 NE SPAULDING, GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526

RECENT DECISIONS SIGNED OR PROJECTS DROPPED

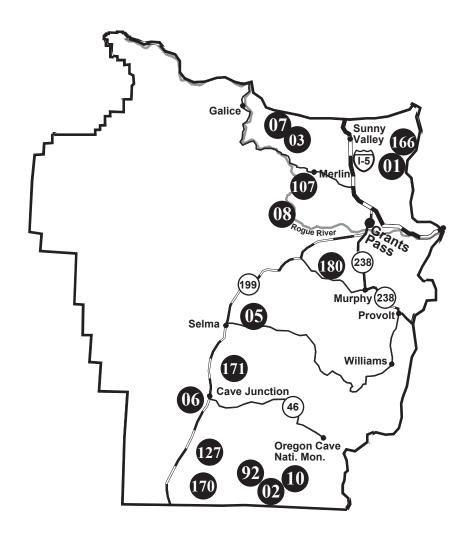
PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION	CONTACT
4. MEDFORD DISTRICT PROGRAMMATIC AQUATIC RESTORATION	Medford District	Decision signed	June 9, 2009			Mike Mathews
180. CHENEY SLATE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Lower Applegate River Watershed	Decision Signed	August 24, 2009			Cori Francis

Fall 2009

NEW OR ON-GOING PROJECTS

			PROPOSED DATES			
PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION	CONTACT
92. ALTHOUSE SUCKER LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Althouse and Sucker Creek Watersheds	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2009	Dave Maurer
107. WILDLIFE IMAGES FLPMA LEASE	T35S,R7W, Sec 25,36	On Hold				Tony Kerwin
127. FRENCH FLAT ACEC MANAGEMENT PLAN	T40S,R8W, Sec 10,15	Completed	Fall 2009	N/A	N/A	Susan Fritts
166. GRANITE JOE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	North of Grants Pass	Completed	completed	On hold	On hold	John Schneider
170. EAST FORK ILLINOIS LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	East Fork Illinois River	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2009	Jon Raybourn
171. TENNESSEE LIME LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Kerby area	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2009	Robin Taylor
1. BRASS JOE / WATERBROOK RIGHT-OF- WAY	T34S,R5W, Sec 23; T35S, R5W, Sec. 3	Completed	Summer 2009	Fall 2009	Fall 2009	Jim Roper
2. CHINA GARDEN INDIAN HILL ROW	T40S,R7W, Sec 13	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fall 2009	Jim Roper

			PROPOSE	ED DATES		
PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION	CONTACT
3. QUARTZ CREEK OHV MANAGEMENT PLAN	Jumpoff Joe & Rogue Recreation Section Watersheds	Completed	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Jeanne Klein
5. DEER NORTH TIMBER SALE	Deer Creek Watershed	Completed	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Tony Kerwin
6. EAST WEST JUNCTION TIMBER SALE	Lower Illinois River Watershed	Completed	Winter 2009	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Tony Kerwin
7. QUARTZ CENTENNIAL TIMBER SALE	Jumpoff Joe, Rogue Recreation Section & Grave Creek Watersheds	Completed	On hold			Mike Mathews
8. ROGUE RIVER HELLGATE RECREATION SECTION RESTORATION PROJECT	Rogue River-Hellgate Recreation Section	Completed	Complete	Complete	Fall 2009	Tony Kerwin
9. GPRA PROGRAMMATIC FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION FY 2009-2013	Grants Pass Resource Area	Completed	Summer 2009	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Jon Larson
10. TRACY MINING PLAN OF OPERATIONS	Sucker Creek Watershed	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Summer 2010	Tony Kerwin



Grants Pass Resource Area Projects

- On Brass Joe/Waterbrook Right of Way
- 1 Indian Hill Right of Way
- Quartz Creek OHV Plan
- **105** Deer North Timber Sale
- 66 East West Junction Timber Sale
- 07 Quartz Centennial Timber Sale
- Rogue River Recreation Section Restoration Project
- 10 Tracy Mining Plan of Operations

- Althouse Sucker Forest Management Project EA
- Wildlife Images R&PP Lease EA
- French Flat ACEC Management Plan EA
- Granite Joe Landscape Mgt Project EA
- East Fork Illinois LandscapeManagement Project EA
- Tennessee Lime
- (8) Cheney Slate Landscape Mgt Proj. EA

	2011
Project	Resource Area
tional information on the following project (s):	
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